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NEWS RELEASE

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region



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CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD PROPOSES \$400,000 PENALTY FOR A SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY GAS STATION'S FAILURE TO CLEAN UP GROUNDWATER

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's Executive Officer has proposed a penalty of \$400,000 against the Franks One Stop gasoline service station, 2072 West Yosemite Ave. in Manteca.

The Administrative Civil Liability complaint names Frank Jr. and Sherri Guinta, current owners and former operators, and James and Marilyn Ramsey, former owners of the station.

According to the complaint, the owners and operators failed to comply with Water Board orders to clean up gasoline discharges to groundwater from six underground storage tanks and failed to maintain treatment systems for domestic wells. The leaks were reported in 1992 by the San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department. Groundwater has been polluted by gasoline including the additive Methyl Tertiary-Butyl Ether, or MTBE.

The plume of polluted groundwater under the tanks migrated to domestic water supply wells of neighboring residences. The owners initially used a state grant for the cleanup but did not finish within the \$1.5 million budget.

In 2003 the Water Board issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order requiring the owners and operators to maintain wellhead treatment systems for 11 domestic wells, test additional supply and monitoring wells, and to complete the investigation and cleanup of the groundwater plume.

In January 2005, the owners and operators stopped all environmental work at the site. Water from the polluted wells is being treated and tested to ensure it meets water quality standards at the State's expense. The State is also paying to maintain the treatment systems.

The polluted groundwater underlies residences to the north and south of the service station along both sides of Airport Way. The residents with domestic wells receive copies of the results from the monitoring being conducted on their wells.